IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing rimless spectacles having plastic lenses and rimless supporting structures, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a connection region between a plastic lens and a rimless supporting structure, said connection region having a radiation absorbing dye having a predetermined wavelength absorbing band; ~~and~~

exposing the radiation absorbing dye to a source of radiation operating at a wavelength within the predetermined wavelength band of the radiation absorbing dye; and

fusing the lens to the rimless supporting structure in the connection region to form an integral supporting assembly whereby optical interference from the surface of the supporting structure when viewed by the eye is substantially avoided due to its integration with the lens.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of providing further comprises coating a surface on the rimless support structure within the connection region with the radiation absorbing dye.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of providing further comprises coating a surface of the lens within the connection region with the radiation absorbing dye.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of providing further comprises incorporating the radiation absorbing dye into the lens during manufacturing of the same.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of providing further comprises incorporating the radiation absorbing dye into the rimless support structure during manufacturing of the same.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the connection region comprises areas on the edges of the lens and rimless supporting structures that are in contact with each other during the step of exposing.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling an optically transparent, rimless supporting tab onto an ophthalmic lens comprising the steps of:

providing a thermoplastic supporting tab with a profiled surface extending in a circumferential direction and coating the surface with a radiation absorbing dye that is substantially transparent in visible light following irradiation;

trimming a plastic ophthalmic lens to form a periphery for mating to said coated profiled surface; and

assembling the tab onto the periphery and irradiating the dye within the dye's absorption band through the tab or lens to fuse the tab onto the ophthalmic lens thereby

forming an integral optical supporting assembly that substantially avoids optical interference with the ophthalmic lens.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein upon irradiation the dye converts absorbed radiation into localized heat via vibrational relaxation.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said radiation absorbing dye is selected from the group consisting of a near infrared absorbing dye and an infrared absorbing dye, and wherein the dye highly transmits all wavelengths in the visible spectrum.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said radiation absorbing dye is a narrow band visible light absorbing dye that highly transmits all wavelengths outside the narrow band.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said dye decomposes into substantially invisible by-products following irradiation.

13. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing rimless spectacles having plastic lenses and rimless supporting structures, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a connection region between the edge of each lens and the rimless supporting structure, said connection region having a radiation absorbing dye having a predetermined wavelength absorbing band;

joining the rimless supporting structure with an edge of the lens in an abutting relation; and

irradiating the dye within the dye's absorbing band thereby fusing the lens and rimless ~~support~~ supporting structure together at the point of contact to form an integral rimless spectacle assembly whereby optical interference from a surface of the supporting structure when viewed by the eye is substantially avoided due to its integration with the lens.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein said step of fusing further comprises the step of exposing the radiation absorbing dye to a source of radiation operating at a wavelength within the predetermined wavelength band of the radiation absorbing dye.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein said step of providing further comprises coating a surface on the rimless support structure within the connection region with the radiation absorbing dye.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein said step of providing further comprises coating a surface of the lens edge within the connection region with the radiation absorbing dye.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein said step of providing further comprises incorporating the radiation absorbing dye into the lens during manufacturing of the same.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein said step of providing further comprises incorporating the radiation absorbing dye into the rimless support structure during manufacturing of the same.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13 ~~14~~, wherein the connection region comprises areas on the edges of the lens and rimless supporting structures that are in contact with each other during the step of fusing.

Please add the following claims:

21. (New) The method of claim1, further comprising the steps of:

providing on said rimless supporting structures at least one transparent, thermoplastic supporting tab with a profiled surface and coating said surface with the radiation absorbing dye;

trimming the lens to form a periphery for mating to said coated profiled surface; and

assembling the tab onto the periphery and irradiating the dye within the dye's absorption band through at least one of the tab or lens to fuse the tab onto the lens.

22. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

providing on said rimless supporting structures at least one transparent, thermoplastic supporting tab with a profiled surface and coating said surface with the radiation absorbing dye;

trimming the lens to form a periphery for mating to said coated profiled surface; and

assembling the tab onto the periphery and irradiating the dye within the dye's absorption band through at least one of the tab or lens to fuse the tab onto the lens.